



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 1061

LCO No. 4663



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF STATE PARKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-49 of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

4 (a) For the registration of each passenger motor vehicle, other than
5 an electric motor vehicle, the fee shall be [eighty] eighty-five dollars
6 every two years, provided: (1) Any individual may, as prescribed by
7 section 14-12, as amended by this act, or 14-22, as amended by this act,
8 as applicable, affirmatively elect to not pay the five-dollar portion of
9 such fee that constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks
10 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act, and
11 (2) any individual who is sixty-five years of age or older on or after
12 January 1, 1981, may, at his discretion, renew the registration of such
13 passenger motor vehicle owned by him for either a one-year or two-
14 year period. The fee for one year shall be [forty] forty-five dollars, and
15 the fee for two years shall be [eighty] eighty-five dollars, provided: (A)

16 Any individual may, as prescribed by section 14-12, as amended by
17 this act, or 14-22, as amended by this act, as applicable, affirmatively
18 elect to not pay the five-dollar portion of any such one-year or two-
19 year fee that constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks
20 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act, and
21 (B) the biennial fee for any motor vehicle for which special license
22 plates have been issued under the provisions of section 14-20 shall be
23 eighty dollars. The provisions of this subsection relative to the biennial
24 fee charged for the registration of each antique, rare or special interest
25 motor vehicle for which special license plates have been issued under
26 section 14-20 shall not apply to an antique fire apparatus or transit bus
27 owned by a nonprofit organization and maintained primarily for use
28 in parades, exhibitions or other public events but not for purposes of
29 general transportation.

30 (b) (1) For the registration of each motorcycle, the biennial fee shall
31 be [forty-two] forty-seven dollars, subject to the provisions of
32 subdivision (2) of this subsection and provided any individual may, as
33 prescribed by section 14-12, as amended by this act, or 14-22, as
34 amended by this act, as applicable, affirmatively elect to not pay the
35 five-dollar portion of such fee that constitutes a charitable donation to
36 the State Parks Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5
37 of this act. For the registration of each motorcycle with side car or box
38 attached used for commercial purposes, the biennial fee shall be [sixty]
39 sixty-five dollars provided any individual may, as prescribed by
40 section 14-12, as amended by this act, or 14-22, as amended by this act,
41 as applicable, affirmatively elect to not pay the five-dollar portion of
42 such fee that constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks
43 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act. The
44 commissioner may register a motorcycle with a side car under one
45 registration which shall cover the use of such motorcycle with or
46 without such side car. (2) Four dollars of the total fee with respect to
47 the registration of each motorcycle shall, when entered upon the
48 records of the Special Transportation Fund, be deemed to be

49 appropriated to the Department of Transportation for purposes of
50 continuing the program of motorcycle rider education formerly
51 funded under the federal Highway Safety Act of 1978, 23 USC 402.

52 Sec. 2. Section 14-49 of the general statutes is amended by adding
53 subsection (bb) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

54 (NEW) (bb) Five dollars of any registration fee collected by the
55 commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, as
56 amended by this act, shall constitute a charitable donation to the State
57 Parks Sustainability account, as established in section 5 of this act and
58 shall be deposited by the commissioner in such account unless such
59 registrant affirmatively elected to not pay such five-dollar charitable
60 donation, in accordance with section 14-12, as amended by this act, or
61 14-22, as amended by this act, in which case five dollars of such
62 registration fee shall not be deposited in such account.

63 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is
64 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
65 *1, 2015*):

66 (b) To obtain a motor vehicle registration, except as provided in
67 subsection (c) of this section, the owner shall file in the office of the
68 commissioner an application signed by him and containing such
69 information and proof of ownership as the commissioner may require.
70 The application shall be made on blanks furnished by the
71 commissioner. The blanks shall be in such form and contain such
72 provisions and information as the commissioner may determine,
73 provided any such blank used to register a passenger motor vehicle or
74 a motorcycle shall contain information informing the owner that five
75 dollars of the applicable registration fee for such passenger motor
76 vehicle or motorcycle constitutes a charitable donation to the State
77 Parks Sustainability account and such blank contains a check box that
78 allows such owner to affirmatively elect to not pay such five-dollar
79 charitable donation.

80 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 14-22 of the general statutes is
81 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
82 *1, 2015*):

83 (a) A motor vehicle registration issued pursuant to this chapter shall
84 expire in accordance with schedules established by the commissioner.
85 If the expiration date of the registration of the motor vehicle, except the
86 registration of a motor vehicle used to transport passengers for hire,
87 falls on any day when offices of the commissioner are closed for
88 business, the registration shall be deemed valid for the operation of the
89 motor vehicle until midnight of the next day on which offices of the
90 commissioner are open for business. The commissioner shall prescribe
91 the date and manner of renewing registrations. Not less than forty-five
92 days prior to the expiration of any valid registration, the department
93 shall send or transmit, in such manner as the commissioner
94 determines, an application for renewal to the registrant. In the case of a
95 motor vehicle registered to a leasing company licensed pursuant to
96 section 14-15, the department may send or transmit, in such manner as
97 the commissioner determines, an application for renewal of a leased
98 vehicle to the lessee of such vehicle. Any such application used to
99 register a passenger motor vehicle or a motorcycle shall contain: (1)
100 Information informing the owner that five dollars of the applicable
101 registration fee for such passenger motor vehicle or motorcycle
102 constitutes a charitable donation to the State Parks Sustainability
103 account, and (2) a check box that allows such owner to affirmatively
104 elect to not pay such five-dollar charitable donation. The commissioner
105 shall not be required to send or transmit a registrant's or lessee's
106 application by mail if the United States Postal Service has determined
107 that mail is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person
108 that is in the records of the department. Except for the processing of
109 such application at an official emissions inspection station as provided
110 in subsection (b) of this section or by telephone as provided in
111 subsection (c) of this section, the commissioner may require that the
112 application be returned electronically or by mail in order to be

113 processed and approved, with only such exceptions, on a hardship
114 basis, as shall be established by the commissioner in regulations
115 adopted pursuant to chapter 54.

116 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) There is established a State
117 Parks Sustainability account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
118 account within the General Fund. Any moneys collected for donations
119 to the State Parks Sustainability account pursuant to subsections (a)
120 and (b) of section 14-49 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
121 subsection (b) of section 14-12 of the general statutes, as amended by
122 this act, and section 9 of this act, shall be deposited by the
123 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles into such account. The account may
124 also include moneys received from public and private sources,
125 including the federal government. All moneys deposited in the
126 account shall be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental
127 Protection or persons acting under a contract with such department, as
128 follows: (1) To reimburse the Department of Motor Vehicles for
129 incurred costs to include notice on applications for motor vehicle
130 registrations and renewal motor vehicle registrations of the option to
131 not pay the five-dollar charitable donation to such account and to
132 collect such donations from applicants, provided the amount shall not
133 exceed one hundred thousand dollars for each fiscal year and such
134 reimbursement shall occur not later than July first of each year; and (2)
135 to provide for the maintenance, operation and improvement of state
136 parks that are under the custody, care or control of the Commissioner
137 of Energy and Environmental Protection.

138 Sec. 6. Section 10-303 of the general statutes is repealed and the
139 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

140 (a) [The] Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the
141 authority in charge of any building or property owned, operated or
142 leased by the state or any municipality therein shall grant to the
143 Department of Rehabilitation Services a permit to operate in such
144 building or on such property a food service facility, a vending machine

145 or a stand for the vending of newspapers, periodicals, confections,
146 tobacco products, food and such other articles as such authority
147 approves when, in the opinion of such authority, such facility, machine
148 or stand is desirable in such location. Any person operating such a
149 stand in any such location on October 1, 1945, shall be permitted to
150 continue such operation, but upon such person's ceasing such
151 operation such authority shall grant a permit for continued operation
152 to the Department of Rehabilitation Services. The department may
153 establish a training facility at any such location.

154 (b) Pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, 49 Stat.
155 1559 (1936), 20 USC 107, as amended from time to time, the
156 Department of Rehabilitation Services is authorized to maintain a
157 nonlapsing account and to accrue interest thereon for federal vending
158 machine income which, in accordance with federal regulations, shall
159 be used for the payment of fringe benefits to the vending facility
160 operators by the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

161 (c) The Department of Rehabilitation Services may maintain a
162 nonlapsing account and accrue interest thereon for state and local
163 vending machine income which shall be used for the payment of fringe
164 benefits, training and support to vending facilities operators, to
165 provide entrepreneurial and independent-living training and
166 equipment to children who are blind or visually impaired and adults
167 who are blind and for other vocational rehabilitation programs and
168 services for adults who are blind.

169 (d) The Department of Rehabilitation Services may disburse state
170 and local vending machine income to student or client activity funds,
171 as defined in section 4-52.

172 (e) In lieu of the requirements established in subsection (a) of this
173 section, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
174 shall remit to the Department of Rehabilitation Services a payment that
175 represents ten per cent of the revenue generated from any contract for

176 the operation of food concessions at any state park.

177 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 23-26 of the general statutes is
178 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
179 *1, 2015*):

180 (a) The commissioner may (1) provide for the collection of fees for
181 parking, admission, boat launching and other uses of state parks,
182 forests, boat launches and other state recreational facilities, (2)
183 establish from time to time the daily and seasonal amount thereof, (3)
184 enter into contractual relations with other persons for the operation of
185 concessions, (4) establish other sources of revenue to be derived from
186 services to the general public using such parks, forests and facilities,
187 (5) employ such assistants as may be necessary for the collection of
188 such revenue. The commissioner shall deposit such revenue derived
189 therefrom with the State Treasurer in the General Fund. On and after
190 July 1, 1992, any increase in any fee or any establishment of a new fee
191 under this section shall be by regulations adopted in accordance with
192 the provisions of chapter 54. Not later than May 1, 2010, said
193 commissioner shall establish the daily and seasonal amount of such
194 parking, admission, boat launching and other use fees for residents of
195 this state in amounts not greater than one hundred thirty-five per cent
196 of the amounts charged for such fees by said commissioner as of April
197 1, 2009. Not later than May 1, 2010, said commissioner shall establish
198 the daily and seasonal amount of such parking, admission, boat
199 launching and other use fees for nonresidents of this state in amounts
200 not greater than one hundred fifty per cent of the amounts charged for
201 such fees by said commissioner as of April 1, 2009. Notwithstanding
202 the provisions of this section, the commissioner may enter into an
203 agreement with any municipality under which the municipality may
204 retain fees collected by municipal officers at state boat launches when
205 state employees are not on duty. Any contract entered into by the
206 commissioner pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall
207 provide that such person shall pay to the commissioner: (A) For the
208 purpose of remitting payment in accordance with section 10-303, as

209 amended by this act, a fee that represents ten per cent of the revenue
210 generated from the operation of any such concession, and (B) a fee that
211 represents twenty per cent of the revenue generated from the
212 operation of any such concession.

213 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than July 31, 2015, the
214 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish
215 the amount of rent paid by any resident of this state for the use of state
216 park property for any special event of limited duration, including, but
217 not limited to, weddings and receptions, in an amount that is based on
218 the number of persons attending such special event provided such
219 amount is not less than one hundred thirty-five per cent of the amount
220 charged for such rent by the commissioner as of July 1, 2015. Not later
221 than July 31, 2015, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
222 Protection shall establish the amount of rent paid by any nonresident
223 of this state for the use of state park property for any special event of
224 limited duration, including, but not limited to, weddings and
225 receptions, in an amount that is based on the number of persons
226 attending such special event provided such amount is not less than one
227 hundred fifty per cent of the amount charged for such rent by the
228 commissioner as of July 1, 2015. The amount of any rent charged
229 pursuant to this section shall reflect a higher fee for any event that will
230 have a greater number of people in attendance.

231 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than July 31, 2015, the
232 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall amend
233 the Adopt A Park program to additionally provide for the recognition
234 of participants who elect to financially sponsor such park, through
235 contribution of a charitable donation, by erecting a placard at such
236 park that bears the name of any such sponsoring individual,
237 individuals, organization or corporation and the nature of such
238 financial sponsorship. The commissioner may establish multiple tiers
239 for such financial sponsorship provided no level of charitable donation
240 for such financial sponsorship shall be less than two thousand five
241 hundred dollars. Any funds collected by the commissioner pursuant to

- 242 this section shall be deposited by the commissioner in the State Parks
243 Sustainability account established pursuant to section 5 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-49(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-49
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-12(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-22(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-303
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	23-26(a)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the fiscal sustainability of state parks by establishing additional sources of revenue generated by state parks and additional revenues dedicated for the maintenance, operation and improvement of such state parks.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]